

Agenda Item 10

Annual NASACRE conference 2022

Monday 23rd May, 10:30am to 3:30pm

AMBITIOUS SACRES

Main events of the day:

Ed Pawson (REC vice-chair) Keynote: Ed explained the nature, membership and functions of the **Religious Education Council**, and then talked us through the **CoRE report** (2018) and more recent **Draft Handbook** on developing a Religion & Worldviews approach to RE in the classroom:

<https://www.religiouseducationcouncil.org.uk/projects/draft-handbook-and-nse/> He explained that funded work is now being done to provide exemplars of how this could be done, and these will be published as the Final Handbook.

Dr Richard Keuh (HMI subject lead for RE): Richard spoke to the question, What is high quality Religious Education? Reminding us of the recent Research Review for RE (May 2021), he explained that a forthcoming RE Subject Report will provide details on what recent OFSTED reports are showing from ‘deep dives’ about the quality of RE in schools.

Drawing on the above Research Review document he argued that quality RE should enable pupils to “enter into the discourse” of the subject in an intellectually and personally challenging way. Reminding us of the three forms of RE Knowledge (Substantive; Ways of knowing; Personal knowledge), he focussed on the two functions of Selection of curriculum material, and the Scholarliness of the curriculum. Selected curriculum material needed to be “collectively enough”, or, “cumulatively sufficient” for engaging in a complex society. Furthermore, academic scholarship (Ways of knowing) should be foundational to the taught curriculum: like percolating coffee, the aroma and taste of RE scholarship (the language, level of certainty, etc.) should be present in what is taught, so that misconceptions are avoided, and real lived experience reflected.

Westhill Awards were then announced for 2022-23: Bristol, Leicestershire and Luton SACREs were all successful in being granted awards, and Bexley SACRE remains in negotiation for a possible fourth award. Applications for awards of up to £4k for next year will be accepted from autumn 2022.

David Hampshire (NASACRE Exec.): Presentation of survey results of a **National Analysis of SACRE Annual Reports**. 57 SACRE reports were received by Dec. 2021. A range of contents were reported, including details of: members and termly meetings; resources; level of LA support; methods of monitoring of RE & CW; RS exam results; advice given to LAs and responses received; support for, and/or communications with schools; details of determinations, complaints, withdrawals; partnerships with other bodies.

Panel discussion/debate (see photo above). Various questions were discussed, but the ‘big’ issue identified for the future is how SACREs should relate to the new MATs (multi-academy trusts).

New NASACRE website: this was ‘showcased’, and will be available shortly.

Report by: Cllr Chris Burke, MBE & Mark Plater. 23/05/2022

This page is intentionally left blank